

Please replace all prior versions of the claims with the following claim listing:

CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of transporting a customized user interface **software** environment, ~~which permits customization of user interface environments but which does not directly provide for machine-independent invocation of a customized environment,~~ comprising the actions of [[, at various times]]:
 - a) operating a utility program on a first computer to store customized program-specific settings for **the software environment, but not a workable operating system,** on a storage medium, **wherein said software environment includes configuration settings, programs, program data, and/or dynamically linked library (DLL) information, which permits customization of user interface environments;**
 - b) operating the utility program on a second computer to reconfigure said second computer to use said customized program-specific settings transferred from the storage medium;
 - c) reconfiguring the second computer by merging configuration and program information of said first computer into a local system environment of said second computer; and thereafter
 - d) operating said second computer in accordance with said settings and under an operating system which was already installed and running on the second computer without performing a system reboot;

wherein said action (c) is performed whether or not the second computer is running the same operating system as said first computer.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step a) stores said settings onto a portable data medium.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step a) also stores environmental settings.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step a) stores registry entries.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step b) retrieves said settings from a portable data medium for use.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step b) checks for possible conflicts before reconfiguring said second computer.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step a) stores said program-specific settings for only some of the programs on said first computer, as manually selected in an operation which does not involve manual installation of programs.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising, after step d), a subsequent step of reconfiguring said second computer by restoring the local system environment of said second computer, to at least partially reverse said step b).
9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising, after step d), a subsequent step of again reconfiguring said second computer

by restoring the local system environment of said second computer, to wholly reverse said step b).

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the subsequent step, after said step c), of automatically erasing all temporary files created on said second computer during said step b).
11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of saving any configuration changes made during said steps b) or c), and synchronizing said configuration changes onto said first computer.
12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step a) stores defined user variables.
13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step a) stores link library files.
14. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step a) stores a record of any version conflicts of DLLs or system services.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said step a) also automatically captures and stores at least some data files which are identifiably associated with programs for which settings are stored in said step a).
16. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step b) also automatically identifies program update needs and retrieves any stored data necessary to update the program.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A method of transporting a customized user interface environment, comprising:
- a) capturing registry information of a first computer using a first copy of a configuration utility;
 - b) storing the registry information of the first computer onto a portable data medium;
 - c) retrieving the stored registry information of the first computer;
 - d) merging the retrieved registry information of the first computer into a registry on a second computer using a second copy of the configuration utility; and
 - e) executing the merged registry information on the second computer, wherein said registry information comprises settings and options for an already running operating system which take effect without a system reboot.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the registry information comprises one or more of dynamic link libraries (DLLs), configuration data, environment settings, programs, program data, and combinations thereof.
19. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 17, further comprising:
- [[e]] restoring the registry of the second computer by retrieving the merged registry information of the first computer.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, further comprising before step d):
- c1) creating a backup of registry information on a second computer.